

Appl. No. 10/681,497  
Response to OA of 9-22-09 (Final)

**Appendix A  
Claims**

1. (Previously Presented) In the method for forming lignocellulosic polyolefin composite products containing 25 to 75 percent by weight of the polyolefin material such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of a cationic salt of boric acid in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said amount of cationic salt of boric acid is in the range of from about 3 to about 5 percent by weight of said composite.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said lignocellulosic material is selected from the group consisting of wood, ground rice hulls, kenaf, jute, and coconut shells.
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 in which said polyolefin material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, high density polyethylene, polystyrene, and polypropylene.
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said cationic salt of boric acid is calcium borate.
7. (Canceled)

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8. (Original) The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is a naturally occurring borate.
9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of ulexite and colemanite.
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said polyolefin material is polyethylene or high density polyethylene.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium borate is colemanite.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said cationic salt of boric acid is zinc borate.
15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently Amended) In the method for forming composite products consisting of a polyolefin material which is 25 to 75 percent by weight of the total composite, a lignocellulosic material, talc, and at least one of the group consisting of a lubricant, a cross-linking agent, a UV stabilizer, an inhibitor, and a coupling agent such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which consists of incorporating an amount of a cationic salt of boric acid selected from the group of synthetic calcium borate, colemanite, ulexite, or mixtures thereof in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product.

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17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) In the method for forming composite products consisting of lignocellulosic high density polyethylene and at least one of the group consisting of a lubricant, a cross- linking agent, a UV stabilizer, an inhibitor, and a coupling agent such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which consists of incorporating an amount of synthetic calcium borate, colemanite, ulexite or mixtures thereof in the range of from about 3 to 5 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.

19. (New) The method according to claim 1 in which said amount of lignocellulosic material is in the range of from greater than 40% to about 70% of the total composite weight.

20. (New) The method according to claim 18 in which said amount of lignocellulosic material is in the range of from greater than 40% to about 70% of the total composite weight.